United Nations S/2002/274*

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 March 2002

Original: English

Letter dated 14 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to paragraph 9 of Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) of 20 December 2001, a report on the activities of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan is hereby submitted for the consideration of members of the Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if the report could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**

* Reissued for technical reasons.

02-28944* (E) 200302

Annex to the letter dated 14 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland addressed to the Secretary-General

Report on the activities of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan

1. Following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1386 (2001) on 20 December 2001, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) began deploying to Kabul, reaching full operational capability on 18 February 2002. Since arriving in Afghanistan, ISAF has established good relations with all elements of the Interim Administration, through both the Joint Coordination Board (between ISAF, the Interim Administration and the United Nations) and bilateral contacts with individual Ministers. Coordination of activities is good, although there are inevitably administrative difficulties in the newly formed ministries.

2. Since achieving full operational capability, ISAF has concluded a military and technical agreement with the Interim Administration (available on www.mod.uk), set out rules of engagement and concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with all troop-contributing nations. ISAF is housed in 11 locations adapted for use by the force. The buildings, in an improved condition, will be returned to their owners at the end of the mission. Where schools have been utilized, ISAF will hand them over when required for school use.

3. Security in Kabul is improving, assisted by ISAF either alone or in conjunction with the police patrolling day and night in all 12 police districts. The police, with German and United Kingdom assistance, are becoming more effective. As a result of Interim Administration rulings, the presence of arms on the streets has reduced noticeably. Various elements of the Interim Administration armed forces and other armed groups have either returned to their barracks or withdrawn from the city. Although ISAF has been well received by the majority of the population in Kabul, there are still risks to ISAF troops from extremists, as isolated incidents of ISAF coming under fire have shown.

4. Commercial life in Kabul is returning to normal, if the increasing flow of traffic through the customs houses is any indication. The population is also increasing as news of a more peaceful and secure environment spreads and the weather improves to ease the journey of refugees and internally displaced persons. If this returning population is not to become a source of instability, it will be important to provide housing, employment and other support for them. The reopening of Kabul International Airport by ISAF has been one of the most significant contributions to the creation of a sense of a return to normality, connecting the capital to the rest of the world and enabling pilgrims to travel for the hajj.

5. The training of the 1st Battalion of the Afghan National Guard has begun. About 600 men from a wide variety of Afghan ethnic groups are now in training. Chairman Karzai has decided that they should be subordinate to him. The United Nations Development Programme has undertaken to fund and supervise the refurbishment of a semi-derelict barracks within the palace complex as a base. The training course is scheduled to finish on 4 April 2002. The Netherlands, Norway, Turkey, France, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom have provided resources.

6. The ISAF patrol presence is warmly welcomed across Kabul. Some influential figures who previously spoke out against foreign forces in Kabul now acknowledge the positive contribution of ISAF. The Force's security operations are supported by a coordinated information operation designed to dispel any misgivings about the presence of troops on the ground and to promote the benefits of international engagement. In addition, the civil-military coordination effort brings additional small-scale improvements to the areas where soldiers are patrolling through a programme of quick-impact projects.

7. The poor condition of all aspects of administration and law enforcement in Kabul has complicated the task of establishing statistics and other indicators of the situation in Kabul. ISAF is working on its ability to do this and has already established a range of indicators of success to track over the course of the mission.

8. The two major current concerns for ISAF are:

- A lack of clarity over the judicial system. There is the possibility that members of ISAF may be involved in the detention or arrest of individuals. At present there is no established legal system and there is no assurance that the treatment of those individuals will accord with accepted international norms. It is therefore vital that progress on establishing an acceptable and effective legal system is made quickly;

- Proposed disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. There are approximately 100,000 armed militia members in Afghanistan. There is only a need for 60,000 in a sustainable Afghan army. Therefore there must be a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for those who will not be required by the Afghan army. The training of a new Afghan army must proceed hand in hand with a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme and as part of the wider security sector reform programme.

Appendix

International Security Assistance Force participating nations[a] as at 7 March 2002

Nationality	*Total*
Austria	56
Bulgaria	32
Denmark	47
Finland	46
France	499
Germany	879
Greece	121
Italy	357
Netherlands	218
New Zealand	7
Norway	27
Portugal	8
Romania	26
Spain	340
Sweden	40
Turkey	275
United Kingdom	1 863
Total	**4 841**[b]

[a] Belgium is also providing airlift to the Force.

[b] Plus 36 United States liaison staff and a five-man reconnaissance team from the Czech Republic.